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The Japanese believe and Dr. Gulick believes with them that the modern adaptation of Japan to her new environment is in no sense of the word a transformation, a miracle, or a fairy-tale, but is according to true evolution. At a certain period, when in clash with Occidental civilization as represented by southern Europe — governed by a king of kings who had a very businesslike vicar on earth — the chief ruler of Japan, to save the nation's independence, chose hermitage and isolation. This was governmentally a normal procedure, but not a popular desire. The Japanese from the dawning of history in the fifth century have always been eager for knowledge and have a genius for selection and appropriation. Following this theory in over thirty chapters and discussing in masterly style every phase of native character, Dr. Gulick shows that there is no sound reason for adhering to the convenient fiction of a "race soul", and that the Japanese, in the general stream of forces which once kept them in segregation but has now brought them into the world's congregation, have every probability of becoming socially and psychically, as they are now certainly with rapidity becoming as to physique, typical modern men. Whether Dr. Gulick holds the final philosophy as to evolution, or holds in every case consistently to its application, is not for the present critic to say, but as a profound study of the Japanese people this work is worthy of the highest praise.

WILLIAM ELLIOT GRIFFIS.

The Ancient Capital of Scotland: the Story of Perth from the Invasion of Agricola to the Passing of the Reform Bill. By SAMUEL COWAN, J. P. (New York : James Pott and Company. 1904. Two volumes, pp. xv, 408 ; vii, 392.)

MR. COWAN informs his readers that he has been for forty years identified with the social and political life of Perth and has long given his attention to the history of that ancient town. He confesses that he has with difficulty restricted himself to two volumes — they are bulky ones! — and submits to the judgment of the public the success of his undertaking. It is the business of the reviewer, meanwhile, to point out to the public what it may expect to find in these volumes and, further, to indicate whether or not the work has been well done and may be regarded as furnishing trustworthy information.

In the first volume Mr. Cowan treats in separate chapters of the foundation of Perth and the beginnings of Scottish Christianity and national life. Then follow two chapters devoted to the archæology and topography of the town, in which the author attempts to reconstruct its vanished monuments and former appearance. These are succeeded by six chapters dealing with the history of important local families and miscellaneous national events more or less connected with Perth. Two final chapters are devoted to an examination of the records of the town council in so far as they illustrate the daily life and relations of the community. In the second volume the Ruthven Raid, the affairs of the

local kirk, the Gowrie Conspiracy, and the general subject of witchcraft in Scotland are treated in five successive chapters. Then, and in the order named, we have chapters on Cromwell in Scotland, the Reformation at Perth, the Jacobite movements of 1715 and 1745, and the life of the community in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Irrespective of the fashion in which these subjects are treated, it will be seen from this survey of its contents that Mr. Cowan's work is not strictly the history of a municipality—it offers us historical memoirs of Perth rather than the history of the city itself. There is no continuity, no illustration of the growth and decay of institutions. The author's own words show his misunderstanding of the function of the local historian. "The history of the Ancient Capital", he says in his preface, "is in some respects a history of Scotland, as many of the events which appear on the record were all more or less national as well as local". Still, if the work had been well done, even on these lines it might have been of value. This, however, is not the case, and it is difficult to see, indeed, how the work could have been much worse done. The two volumes before us afford little more than a disorderly mass of trivial gossip and extracts from national history drawn from second-hand authorities.

This is a grave judgment to pass on a book which is manifestly the fruit of real enthusiasm and large if misdirected industry, but it can be only too well sustained. Consider first Mr. Cowan's method. He has a completely unscientific and irresponsible fashion of dealing with his material. Here are a few examples. In treating the origin of the Mercer family he writes:

The earliest mention is in the Register of the Privy Council, which says: "John Mercer is said to have gifted to Malcolm Canmore his three water mills at Perth (afterwards assigned to the town by Robert III.), in return for which the Mercers obtained right to a burial vault in St. John's Church". This seems a most important entry, and evidently quite authentic. Malcolm Canmore reigned from 1046 to 1102. (I, 264.)

Again, he is arguing against Hill Burton for the authenticity of Boece's story of the battle of Luncarty and the origin of the Hay family:

We must consider what evidence there is against the theory of the learned writer. The battlefield is to this day pointed out, and accumulations of human bones have been discovered there. If there were no battle where did these bones come from? And if the armorial bearings of the Earl of Errol are founded on a traditional battle, that would have been determined long ago by scientific inquiry. It therefore seems impossible to support the theory laid down by Dr. Hill Burton on arguments which do not touch on what is contained in that standard authority, the Douglas Peerage. (I, 201.)

Such is Mr. Cowan's notion of historical evidence and its uses. In a chapter devoted to the Gowrie conspiracy he tries to prove the guilt of the king, a thesis which he previously attempted to sustain in a not very fortunate book.¹ At the outset he remarks, "The Gowrie Conspiracy

¹ See AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW, VIII, 755-757.

was different from every other conspiracy, in respect that it was evidently a plot by a royal personage against a subject" (II, 66). It would not be easy to find a better example of the *petitio principii*. In detailing the events that took place at Gowrie House, he cites Hill Burton, *History of Scotland*, with the comment, "this authority we consider quite conclusive" (II, 73 n.). Again, on p. 77 he says, "He [the king] was Gowrie's debtor for the sum of £80,000", but twenty pages below he admits, "we have not been able to verify the £80,000". In dealing with the battle of Tibbermore he observes, "It is said on good authority that Lord Drummond's treachery was the cause of Elcho's defeat", and cites in a foot-note Chambers's *Dictionary of Eminent Scotsmen* (II, 140). Rarely does one encounter a writer more *addictus jurare verba magistri*, and although at the outset one was rather aghast to find Mr. Cowan accepting with tranquil faith the Roman origin of the municipality Perth, one sees on reaching the second volume that nothing else could have been expected.

Mr. Cowan has printed a number of documents, but as only one of those that are written in Latin is given in the original, their usefulness is much impaired, the more so as many of them are admittedly condensed and the wording of the translation does not inspire confidence. The historical value — they could not pretend to any other — of the illustrations of the town and its monuments may be gaged by this naïve remark:

The picture (enlarged) forms the frontispiece of this volume, and we have employed an artist to redraw and engrave the monastic buildings. These beautiful illustrations will arouse much interest, as we are not aware that they have ever before been put before the public. We do not guarantee absolute accuracy; our sole aim is to convey some idea of the general appearance of the edifices, their situation outside the walls, and styles of architecture. (I, 112.)

If we turn from the illustrations to the bibliography we meet with the same state of things. There is a list of thirty-five titles in which the *Exchequer Rolls*, Henry Adamson's *The Muses Threnodie*, and Skene's *Celtic Scotland* are on an equal footing, nor is there one of the indispensable bibliographical indications, such as date and place of publication, the edition made use of, and the like. One misses also the more recent works on Scottish history, such as the contributions of Professor Hume Brown, Mr. Lang, and Mr. Rait.

Mr. Cowan's style is eminently Scottish — at moments indeed it is not even English, as witness the following sentences: "The Romans founded various towns in Scotland at that period, although we have no historic record" (I, 18); "The descent of the water into the 'boot' through the ring forms a strong cascade, where, in former days, people having rheumatism and colds, by bathing here, were said to be cured" (I, 66). Other examples of this sort of thing, as well as the use of such barbarisms as "wrongous" occur in volume I, 19, 87; volume II, 33, 134, 149, 195, 245. There are misprints in volume I, 115, 246, 370; volume II, 64.

With all this censure, one must not omit to call attention to what there is of good in the book. The translated medieval documents have a certain indirect value. The spirited letters of Mrs. Smythe of Methven (I, ch. x), give a lively illustration of the disturbances occasioned by the Covenanters, and a striking picture of a courageous woman. The letters of the Earl of Mar in connection with the rising in 1715 (II, ch. XXI) are also of value. Some of the illustrations, too, are good, notably the reproductions of portraits and of coins and seals. Finally there is a full index, standing, perversely enough, at the end of the first volume.

GAILLARD THOMAS LAPSLEY.

Modern History: Europe from Charlemagne to the Present Time.

By WILLIS MASON WEST. (Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 1904. Pp. xii, 651.)

THIS text-book, written primarily for high-schools, is so constructed that it may be used in several kinds of courses. Though entitled a "Modern History", it really takes up the story of Europe in 800 A. D., where it was left by the author's well-known *Ancient History*; it is thus admirably fitted for use in the second year in those schools which are able to adopt the full four-year course recommended by the Committee of Seven. But inasmuch as many schools find it impossible to devote a whole year to Europe and another to England, Mr. West has woven in, here and there, the essentials of English history. And finally one feature in which it differs most markedly from the books of Robinson, Myers, Munro and Whitcomb, and Adams is the exceptionally full treatment given to the most recent history — as much space to the last hundred years as to the preceding thousand. This makes the book more satisfactory for schools which believe that "the high school course in history ought to put the student in touch with present movements in politics and society" (p. iv). It makes possible, for instance, an excellent account, well illustrated with maps, of the expansion of Europe into Asia and Africa. But perhaps all will not agree with Mr. West that "we can well afford to treat with brevity the more ephemeral phases of the Middle Ages, however quaint, if thereby can adequate space be won for the marvelous nineteenth century". Is there not danger of destroying the sense of proportion and of crowding unduly some of the great movements of the past? The German Reformation, for instance, is dismissed with a scant five pages, and there is no mention of Zwingli. Be it said, however, that the work of condensation, always difficult, has been done with unusual success by Mr. West. On every page one is surprised at the amount of information crowded in, while the relative importance of subjects is sharply indicated by the elaborate variations in type and the detailed analysis with numbers and letters. There are nearly forty maps, including not merely the obvious and ordinary ones, but many which visualize at a glance complicated or unsuspected relations; such, for instance, are the sketch-maps showing the Norse kingdom of Canute the